

Vincent Van Gogh

Post-Impressionist Painter

Biography

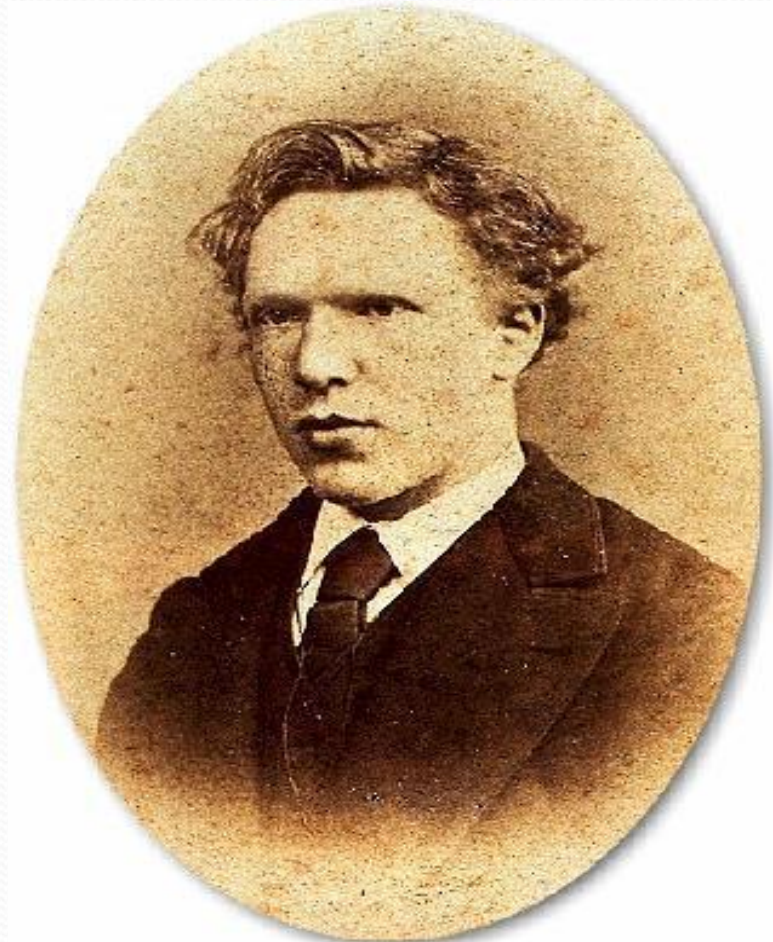
- Vincent Van Gogh was born in Holland in 1853. He died in France in 1890.
- His father was a minister. His mother came from a family of famous art dealers. He was one of 6 children.
- Theo, his favorite brother was born 4 years after him.

More about Van Gogh

- Van Gogh spoke many languages: Dutch, French, English and German.
- He dreamed of teaching and helping poor people.
- He drew all the time as a child.

"If you hear a voice within you say "you cannot paint," then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced."
- **Vincent Van Gogh**

Photos



Biography

- As a young man he tried many professions...art dealer, teacher, Minister, working in a bookstore, until he became a painter at age 27.
- Vincent wrote over 600 letters to his brother, Theo. This is how we know much about Vincent, how he felt and how he worked in his own words.
- Theo encouraged him and sent him a lot of money to help him become an artist. What a great brother!

Early Influences

- **Rembrandt was a Dutch painter of light & shade who lived 200 years before Van Gogh**
- **He had an amazing ability to draw people's moods.**
- **He told a story with his paintings**
- **He did many self-portraits**



Art Style – The Early Years

- Van Gogh's first paintings were mostly of poor people he helped as a young man.
- The colors in his early paintings are **dark** and brown (muddy).
- The feelings portrayed were of **sadness**. He wanted people to know how hard the lives were of the poor people.

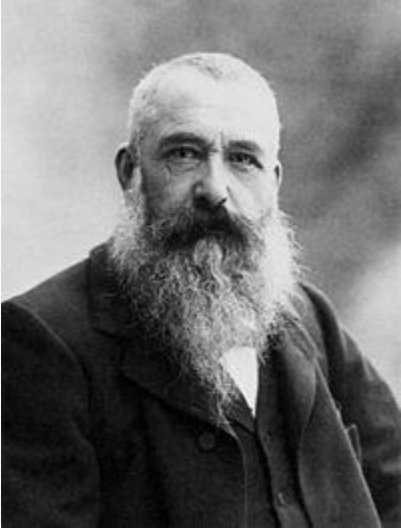
The Potato Eaters-1885



Potato Diggers-1885



More influences

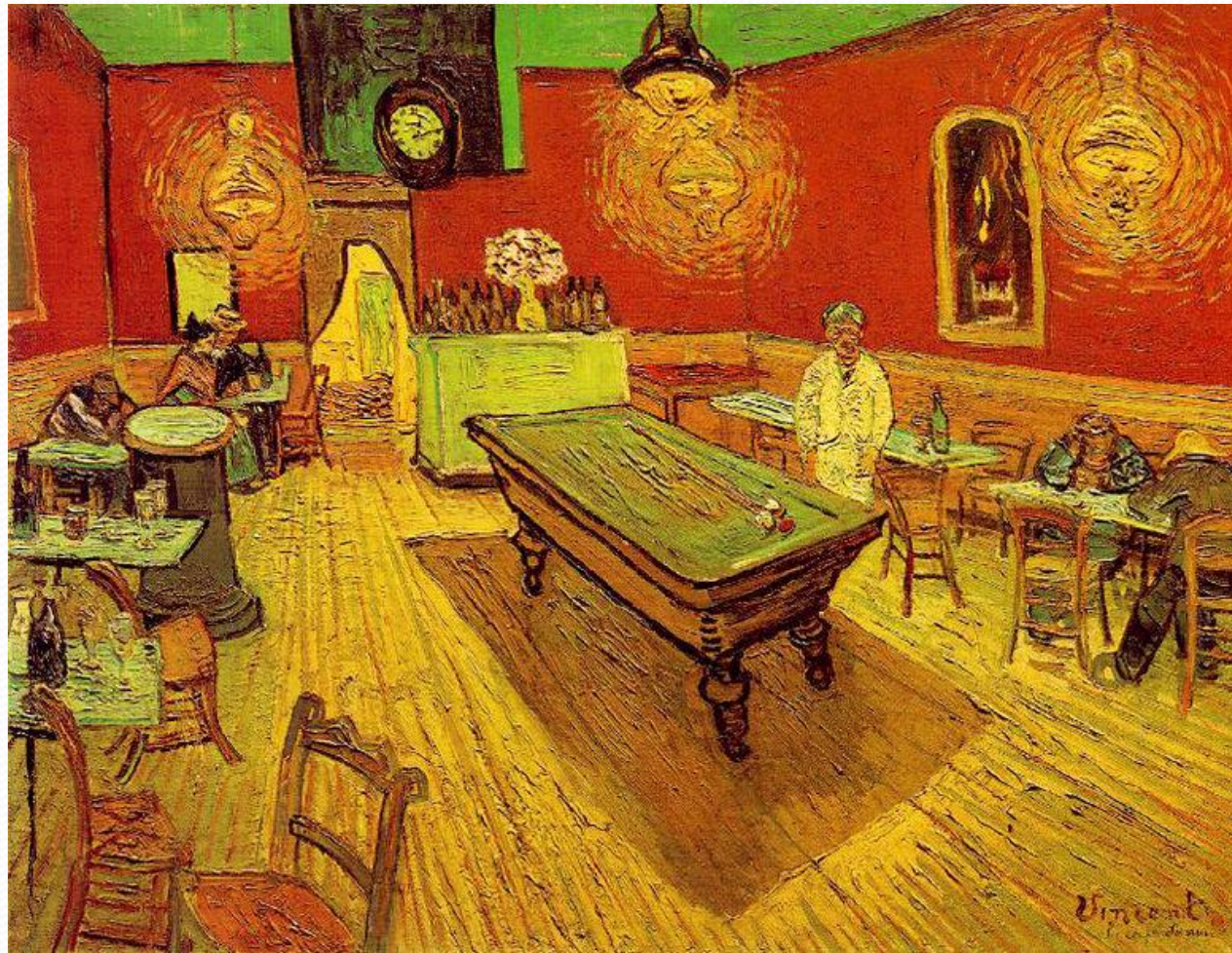


- Claude Monet, French Impressionist
- Impressionists painted everyday outdoor scenes and used small brushstrokes to reflect light and depict movement
- Used lots of bright colors

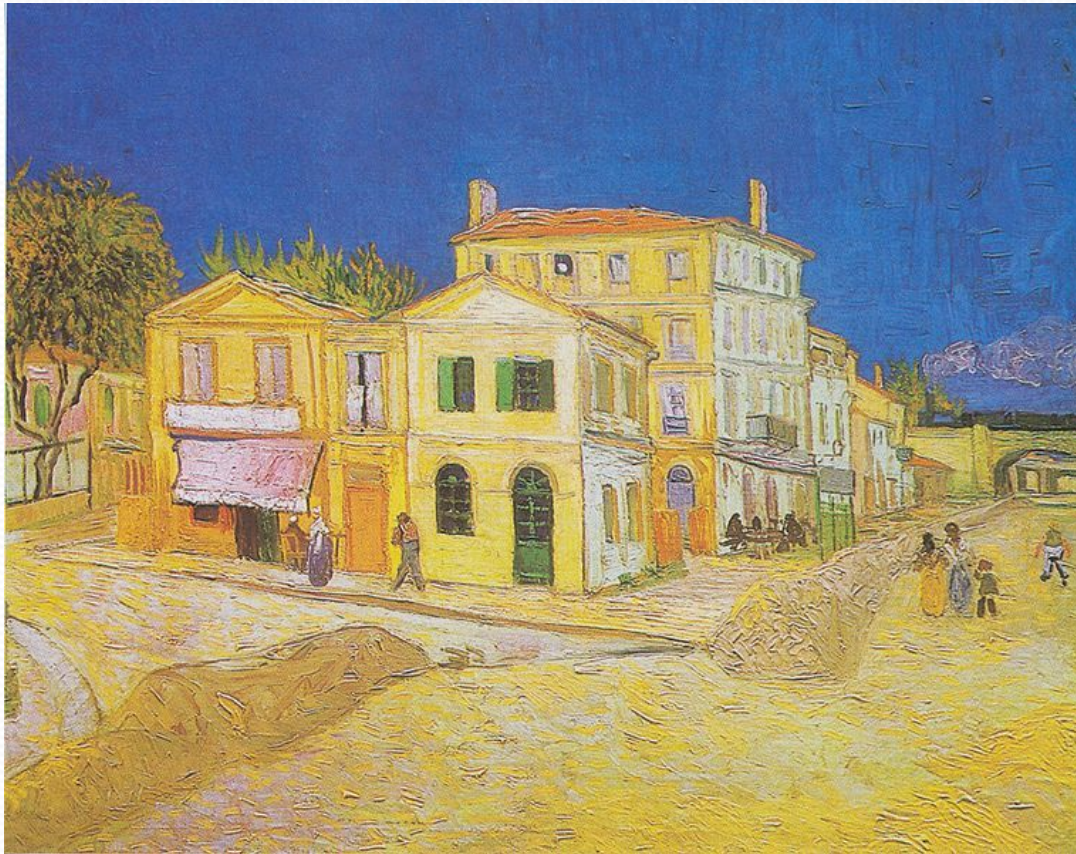
Artistic Style- His Later Years

- Van Gogh now started to lighten his colors and paint in short brushstrokes of the Impressionists.
- His paintings started to look much **happier, brighter and more colorful.**
- Van Gogh's next painting shows this change!

The Night Café-1888




The Yellow House-1888



Can you see the difference?

- Look at the difference between the last painting and the Potato Diggers





He loved the sun and he loved
yellow.....so he drew.....

The Sunflowers-1888

Bright, beautiful colors!

Very thick paint. Sometimes he painted so fast he used paint right out of the tube.

This sold in 1987 for
\$39 million dollars!



Portrait of an Artist

- Van Gogh loved to paint himself. We call that a **Self – Portrait.**
- Why do you think he painted himself all the time?
 - He could not afford to pay models but he owned a mirror!
- He never smiled in his portraits. He was usually in a very sad mood. He used dark lines and wide brush strokes to show sadness.

Self-Portraits



Self-Portraits



Self-Portraits



Self-Portrait Style

- Those were all self portraits but they all looked different because of:
 - Colors
 - Brushstrokes – short, long, wide, fine, heavy or light
 - Shading

Style

- Van Gogh was especially known for:
 - Broad brushstrokes
 - Brilliant colors (no mixing, straight from the tube)
 - Swirling lines to show movement and strong emotion....and to bring his subjects to LIFE!

- Famous example is...

Starry Night-1889



Are the stars shining and the clouds whirling?

Do you think the wind is blowing – why?

Can you feel all the colors in the trees shimmering?

Van Gogh

- **Hardly anyone was interested in his work while he was alive**
 - **He sold only 1 painting while he was alive**
 - **At the time people did not like the bright moving pictures he created**
 - **He did some of his best work during the last 2 years of his life**
- **Painted over 800 paintings!**
- **People today have learned how beautiful his paintings are and his paintings are famous throughout the world!**

What makes a Van Gogh?

- Do the brushstrokes bend, whirl and zigzag?
- Do you feel movement and feel color?
- If you feel emotions or moods when you study it, such as sad, scared, tired or happy
- Does it have the single word “Vincent” written in cursive on his painting?
- If yes, then it is a Van Gogh!



Vincent